



Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos
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Spanish Society for the International Human Rights Law



**Agència Catalana
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Generalitat
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Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Interior,
Relacions Institucionals i Participació
**Oficina de Promoció de la Pau
i dels Drets Humans**

**THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AT GENEVA AND THE SPANISH SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**

**COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
PEACE**

**Nuclear Disarmament and non-proliferation:
A path to resolve peacefully international disputes**

Palais des Nations, Genève

Council Chamber

Friday 18 September 2009

From 14:00 to 15:30

El 21 de septiembre ha sido designado por las Naciones Unidas como Día Internacional de la Paz. Este año la conmemoración oficial tuvo lugar el viernes 18 de septiembre de 2008 en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra, Sala Francisco de Vitoria del Palacio de las Naciones. La ceremonia fue organizada por la AEDIDH y la Oficina de Enlace con las ONG de la Oficina del Director General de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra. Es la segunda vez que la Oficina en Ginebra de las Naciones Unidas observó oficialmente este importante día. La ceremonia fue igualmente posible gracias a la financiación concedida por la Generalitat de Cataluña.

La ceremonia estuvo conducida por los servicios de Protocolo del Director General. Comenzó con una obertura musical realizada por un excelente conjunto de cuatro



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músicos (funcionarios de las Naciones Unidas). Tras dicha interpretación se proyectó un video grabado en Nueva York con el mensaje oficial del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Ban Ki-moon, con ocasión del Día Internacional de la Paz.

Bajo la presidencia del Sr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze (Director General de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra), tomaron la palabra sucesivamente los siguientes oradores invitados: Sr. Laurent Moutinot (Consejero de Estado de la República y Cantón de Ginebra); Sr. Christian Strohal (Representante permanente de Austria ante las Naciones Unidas y Presidente de la Conferencia de Desarme); Sr. David Atwood (Representante permanente de los Quakeros ante las Naciones Unidas) y el Sr. Carlos Villán Durán (Presidente de la AEDIDH).

El Sr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze subrayó que era un privilegio dar la bienvenida a todos/as al Palacio de las Naciones Unidas en la conmemoración anual del Día Internacional de la Paz, que este año está dedicado al desarme y la no proliferación. Agradeció a la Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos por ser los co-organizadores de la conmemoración. Indicó que la protección y promoción de los derechos humanos es el camino necesario para conseguir un mundo más pacífico y estrechamente vinculado con el desarme. Tanto el desarme como los derechos humanos constituyen el núcleo duro del concepto de seguridad humana.

El Sr. Laurent Moutinot habló sobre las consecuencias humanitarias que se derivaron tras el conflicto armado que enfrentó a alemanes y franceses durante la primera y segunda guerra mundial. Hizo referencia a las pinturas que adornaban la Sala Francisco de Vitoria con la finalidad de destacar lo sucedido en aquellos años trágicos de la historia de Europa. Indicó que gracias a la intervención conjunta de las Naciones Unidas y la Unión Africana los conflictos armados en el continente africano se habían progresivamente reducido.

El Sr. Christian Strohal subrayó que en muchas partes del mundo resulta difícil conmemorar el día internacional de la paz debido al número creciente de víctimas civiles y no combatientes derivadas de los graves conflictos armados. Según el embajador, actualmente existen nuevas amenazas en el mundo procedentes tanto de los Estados como de los actores no estatales. Para conseguir un mundo mucho más seguro y pacífico es necesario reducir drásticamente los arsenales nucleares. La Conferencia de Desarme es el organismo de las Naciones Unidas destinado a conseguir un mundo libre de armas nucleares y avanzar en las políticas de desarme.

El Sr. David Atwood subrayó que después de un período de lo que algunos han llamado la "década perdida", el desarme nuclear se está abordando en un contexto internacional mucho más propicio a tratar estos asuntos vitales para la seguridad mundial. Dada la existencia de las nuevas amenazas que sacuden al mundo resulta necesario prohibir de una vez por todas el uso y posesión de las armas nucleares. Según el experto, la eliminación de las armas nucleares es un requisito imprescindible para el progreso humano, la seguridad mundial y la paz.



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El Sr. Carlos Villán Durán hizo referencia al art. 11 de la Declaración de Luarca el cual proclama el derecho de las personas y de los pueblos al desarme general, transparente, bajo control internacional eficaz y completo. Haciéndose eco de la estrecha vinculación existente entre paz, desarrollo y derechos humanos, reconocida en el Documento Final de la Cumbre Mundial de Jefes de Estado de 2005 (párrafo 9), la Declaración de Luarca recomienda “que los recursos liberados por el desarme se destinen al desarrollo económico, social y cultural de los pueblos y a la justa redistribución de los mismos, atendiendo especialmente a las necesidades de los países más pobres y de los grupos vulnerables, de manera que se ponga fin a las desigualdades, la exclusión social y la pobreza”. Hizo un llamamiento a todos los actores internacionales a asociarse a la Alianza Mundial a favor del Derecho Humano a la Paz. Según el ponente, ya les acompañan algunos Estados, más de 200 ONG de todo el mundo, parlamentos regionales, ayuntamientos, INDH y personas expertas de todo el mundo que han suscrito las Declaraciones de La Plata (Argentina), Yaundé (Camerún), Bangkok (Tailandia) y Johannesburgo (Sudáfrica).

Tras la ceremonia oficial se organizó una mesa redonda de personas expertas sobre el desarme y la no proliferación. Bajo la eficaz moderación del Sr. José Luis Gómez del Prado, miembro del Grupo de Trabajo sobre el uso de mercenarios de las Naciones Unidas, tomaron la palabra sucesivamente los siguientes ponentes: Sr. Akio Suda (Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de Japón ante la Conferencia de Desarme), el Sr. Colin Archer (Secretario General del International Peace Bureau) y la Sra. Susy Snyder, Secretaria General del Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom). Sin embargo, antes de iniciar la mesa redonda la Sra. Valeriane Bernard (representante de la organización Brahma Kumaris University) condujo un minuto de silencio por la paz en el mundo.

El Sr. José Luis Gómez del Prado inició su intervención destacando que este año, el Día Internacional de la Paz coincidía con el 20º aniversario del final de la Guerra Fría, que, como indicó el Secretario General, debía ser una oportunidad para "invertir en dividendos por la paz y liberar recursos", los cuales deberían destinarse para el futuro de nuestro planeta, tales como el desarrollo humano, el cambio climático y un nuevo orden económico internacional. Sin embargo, desde el final de la Guerra Fría, el número de víctimas de conflictos armados han aumentado dramáticamente. El gasto militar mundial continúa sin disminuir ascendiendo actualmente a 1,5 billones de dólares.

Según el moderador, este año también marca el aniversario de los bombardeos atómicos de EE.UU. a las ciudades japonesas de Hiroshima y Nagasaki, que mataron a más de 150.000 personas. Sesenta y cuatro años después de esos trágicos acontecimientos, el mundo, como el Sr. Ban Ki-Moon, ha indicado, se encuentra ante un enorme precipicio a consecuencia de la amenaza derivada de las 20 000 armas nucleares existentes en el mundo. Es, por tanto, necesario para lograr la paz y la seguridad mundial conseguir un mundo libre de armas nucleares.

El Sr. Akio Suda hizo referencia al artículo 9 de la Constitución japonesa, el cual indica lo siguiente: "Aspirando sinceramente a una paz internacional basada en la justicia y el



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orden, el pueblo japonés renuncia para siempre a la guerra como derecho soberano de la nación y al uso o amenaza de la fuerza como medio de solución de las controversias internacionales”.

Según el embajador, el abandono de los Estados a su soberanía a fin de evitar la guerra y consolidar la paz en el mundo se refleja perfectamente en un reciente libro titulado en francés, “*Les Nations Unies face aux défis du XXI^e siècle*”. Además, subrayó que Japón tiene razones fundamentales para facilitar el desarme nuclear y la eliminación total de las armas nucleares a nivel mundial, ya que conoce perfectamente los efectos que estas pueden tener sobre la población civil. Las motivaciones para el desarrollo de armas nucleares por parte de países como la India no están basadas necesariamente en razones de seguridad nacional.

El Sr. Colin Archer se refirió al artículo 26 de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, que faculta al Consejo de Seguridad a formular planes para el establecimiento de un sistema de regulación de los armamentos destinado “al establecimiento y mantenimiento de la paz y la seguridad internacionales con la menor desviación posible de los recursos humanos y económicos del mundo hacia los armamentos”.

También subrayó que la sexagésima segunda Conferencia anual organizada por el Departamento de Información Pública de las Naciones Unidas, que tuvo lugar en la Ciudad de México entre el 9 y 11 de septiembre de 2009, se centró en el tema “Por la Paz y el Desarrollo: Desarmarse ahora”. Unos 1.700 representantes de organizaciones no gubernamentales y expertos de 70 países de todo el mundo dieron una nueva visión de cómo contribuir a la reducción armamentística mientras se avanza en la causa de la paz en el mundo. Entre los principales temas que se abordaron destacaron el relativo al “Desarrollo Humano es igual a la Seguridad Nacional” o “Nuevos Retos y Perspectivas para el Desarrollo Global y Seguridad para el siglo XXI”.

La Sra. Susy Snyder se refirió a los desafíos planteados a nivel internacional por la posición de la India, Pakistán, Israel, en relación a la política de China, Francia, Rusia, Reino Unido. Además, subrayó la decisión del Presidente de EUA de suspender el programa previsto por la administración anterior sobre la construcción de un escudo antimisiles en la República Checa y Polonia. Habló sobre la posibilidad de que exista un nuevo instrumento internacional que regule las armas nucleares.



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STATEMENTS:

**Mr. Carlos Villan Duran, President of the Spanish Society for
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Excelencias, Señoras y Señores:

La *Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos* conduce desde 2005, con el apoyo de Unesco Etxea y el patrocinio de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) y otras Agencias regionales, una reflexión mundial entre la sociedad civil para determinar el contenido y alcance del **derecho humano a la paz**, uno de los derechos emergentes a cuyo reconocimiento internacional aspiramos.

En primer lugar, se han celebrado amplias consultas con especialistas españoles de diferentes disciplinas y representantes de organizaciones de la sociedad civil. Fruto de ese trabajo ha sido la adopción, el 30 de octubre de 2006, de la ***Declaración de Luarca sobre el Derecho Humano a la Paz***, que es la contribución más completa de la sociedad civil española al debate planetario sobre el contenido de este derecho.

La *Declaración de Luarca* es un texto normativo, redactado conforme a la técnica jurídica de los instrumentos internacionales de derechos humanos. El Preámbulo se hace eco de la visión holística de paz que impregna a toda la Declaración. Así, la paz no se limita a la estricta ausencia de conflicto armado, sino que tiene un sentido *positivo* orientado a la consecución de un triple objetivo:

- satisfacer las necesidades básicas de todos los seres humanos;
- eliminar todo tipo de violencia (armada, estructural, y cultural: familiar, de género, laboral, escolar); y
- el respeto efectivo de todos los derechos humanos para todos.

Por lo que la ***Declaración*** pone el énfasis en la necesidad de establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional, presidido por la redistribución mundial de los recursos y la realización de la justicia social, de manera que se eliminen las desigualdades, la exclusión y la pobreza, porque generan una violencia estructural que es incompatible con la paz, tanto a nivel interno como internacional. Adicionalmente, la Declaración promueve el derecho a la educación en la paz y los derechos humanos, así como el arreglo pacífico de controversias.

Por otra parte, el Art. 11 de la Declaración proclama el derecho de las personas y de los pueblos al desarme general, transparente, bajo control internacional eficaz y completo. Haciéndose eco de la estrecha vinculación existente entre paz, desarrollo y derechos humanos, reconocida en el **Documento Final de la Cumbre Mundial** de



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Jefes de Estado de 2005 (párrafo 9), la **Declaración de Luarca** recomienda “que los recursos liberados por el desarme se destinen al desarrollo económico, social y cultural de los pueblos y a la justa redistribución de los mismos, atendiendo especialmente a las necesidades de los países más pobres y de los grupos vulnerables, de manera que se ponga fin a las desigualdades, la exclusión social y la pobreza” (Art. 11. c).

En segundo lugar, la AEDIDH lidera una Campaña Mundial de cuatro años (2007-2010) de promoción del derecho humano a la paz, a través de la organización de conferencias y reuniones de personas expertas en todas las regiones del mundo sobre el derecho humano a la paz. Así se comparte con la sociedad civil internacional la Declaración de Luarca, que se enriquece a su vez con las aportaciones propias de las diferentes sensibilidades culturales del mundo.

En tercer lugar, la Declaración de Luarca fue presentada en marzo de 2007 ante el Consejo de Derechos Humanos en su cuarto período de sesiones. Desde entonces la AEDIDH y las 200 ONG asociadas, presentan declaraciones escritas, formulan intervenciones orales y organizan conferencias paralelas durante todos los períodos de sesiones del Consejo, abordándose cuestiones específicas relativas al contenido y alcance del derecho humano a la paz.

En noviembre de 2007 se constituyó en el marco del Consejo el **Grupo de Estados Amigos** del proceso de codificación internacional del derecho humano a la paz, que ya está integrado por cuatro Estados. Invitamos a los demás Estados a sumarse a esta iniciativa.

A pedido del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, la Alta Comisionada de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos deberá organizar en enero de 2010 un taller de personas expertas sobre el derecho de los pueblos a la paz (resolución 11/4, de 17 de junio de 2009), a fin de aclarar el contenido y alcance de ese derecho, proponer medidas para crear conciencia de la importancia su ejercicio, y sugerir medidas concretas para promover el derecho de los pueblos a la paz.

El Comité Asesor también recomendó que uno de sus expertos prepare para 2010 un documento de trabajo sobre el derecho de los pueblos a la paz (recomendación 3/5, de 7 de agosto de 2009).

En cuarto lugar, nuestra Campaña mundial culminará en diciembre de 2010 con la celebración en Santiago de Compostela (España), de la **Conferencia Mundial de la Paz**, en la que la sociedad civil internacional será invitada a debatir y adoptar un texto final de *Declaración Universal del Derecho Humano a la Paz*, que deberá reflejar las aspiraciones de la sociedad civil en su conjunto. A continuación, ese texto será sometido a la consideración del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, instando a los Estados a iniciar la codificación oficial del derecho humano a la paz.

Paralelamente, se propondrá en 2010 a la Conferencia Mundial de la Paz la puesta en marcha de un **Observatorio Internacional del Derecho Humano a la Paz**. Esta nueva organización no gubernamental trabajará en red con las ONG



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locales pertinentes, realizará estudios en el terreno, publicará informes sobre situaciones de violaciones graves y masivas del derecho humano a la paz, y elaborará indicadores objetivos para medir el grado de cumplimiento de este derecho por parte de los Estados y otros actores internacionales.

El *derecho humano a la paz* es objeto de violaciones sistemáticas. Se originan en la violencia armada *directa*, pues persisten más de 40 conflictos armados en el mundo, muchos de ellos olvidados. Según el SIPRI, el **gasto militar mundial** en 2008 alcanzó 1.464 miles de millones de dólares, lo que representó un aumento del 4% en comparación con 2007.

Los recursos dilapidados en esa carrera de armamentos sin sentido, debieran dedicarse a paliar la violencia *estructural* que generan la extrema pobreza y la hambruna que, lejos de reducirse, ya afecta a más de 1.000 millones de seres humanos, la mayoría mujeres y niños de los países del Sur.

El DHP es también violado por las manifestaciones de violencia *cultural*, como la de *género*, la *laboral*, la *escolar* y la *familiar*, tan frecuentes en nuestras sociedades, en las que impera la *cultura de la violencia* sobre la *cultura de paz*.

Nuestra ambición es que algún día la Asamblea General apruebe una *Declaración Universal del Derecho Humano a la Paz*. No existen obstáculos jurídicos insalvables, pues este derecho está fuertemente enraizado tanto en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas como en la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos (en especial su Artículo 28), ambos instrumentos universalmente aceptados.

Los obstáculos son más bien de orden político. Pero se podrían superar si nos aliamos entre todos para construir *una paz justa, sostenible y duradera*. La paz es una exigencia ética que debiera presidir las relaciones internacionales. El *derecho humano a la paz* es un imperativo moral con el que se identifica la sociedad civil de todo el mundo, porque es una exigencia de civilización que está por encima de todo particularismo regional, histórico o cultural.

Por consiguiente, reiteramos el llamamiento que formulamos hace un año, dirigido a todos los **actores internacionales**, a saber: Estados; Organizaciones Internacionales: organizaciones no gubernamentales internacionales, nacionales y locales; instituciones nacionales y regionales de derechos humanos; parlamentos nacionales, regionales e internacionales; gobiernos regionales y locales; miembros del poder judicial; universidades e institutos de investigación; profesionales de la información, la educación, la ciencia y la cultura.

Todos ellos, así como toda persona de buena voluntad, son invitados a asociarse a nuestra **Alianza Mundial a favor del Derecho Humano a la Paz**. Ya nos acompañan algunos Estados, más de 200 ONG de todo el mundo, parlamentos regionales, ayuntamientos, INDH y personas expertas de todo el mundo que han suscrito las Declaraciones de La Plata (Argentina), Yaundé (Camerún), Bangkok (Tailandia) y Johannesburgo (Sudáfrica).



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Por último, permítaseme agradecer públicamente a todos los que han hecho posible este acto, por su excelente trabajo: intérpretes, cuarteto musical (voluntarios) y organizadores: Señores Ricardo Espinosa (ONU) y David Fernández Puyana (AEDIDH). Y a la Generalitat de Cataluña por su patrocinio.

Muchas gracias.

**Mr. David Atwood, Main Representative of the Friends World
Committee for Consultation/Quakers to the United Nations Office at
Geneva**

Mr. Director General, distinguished fellow-panelists, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

It is indeed an honour for me to be asked to say a few words at this event commemorating the International Day of Peace. There will be events taking part all around the world for this day, each expressing in its own way the hopes and determination of peoples to achieve a world community more in harmony with itself and with the planet which we share. Such commemorations are important, because they give us an opportunity to step outside the day-to-day factors which shape our lives to reflect more broadly on first principles and on shared visions, to recommit ourselves to common purposes. If such commemorative days are effective, they spur us to new action for the coming year, rather than merely being symbolic moments after which business-as-usual resumes.

The juxtaposition this year emphasizing the connection between peace and disarmament and non-proliferation is both apt and significant. After a period of what some have called the “lost decade”, nuclear disarmament concerns are being addressed in an improved atmosphere and with renewed determination. Given the proliferation threats which remain, it is indeed essential that this moment be seized for serious new steps to be taken towards finally reaching the long-sought goal of a world that has decided once and for all to ban this insidious and horrific weapon and to strengthen other means other than the threat of nuclear annihilation as a means of protecting security. The fact that most nations of the world already have made this step through their adherence to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty is something we must remind ourselves of, something to celebrate in itself as a major accomplishment of the last 40 years, and something which must serve as a catalyst not only to prevent the break-out from that global bargain but also to drive those who still possess nuclear weapons to move with renewed determination to rid themselves of them. While there is much to be grateful for in what has been accomplished and the “green shoots” of new life for the cause of nuclear disarmament that we are seeing must be praised and nurtured, it is also important that we recognize that the fact that we are STILL talking about this project now more than 60 years after such ideas were first mooted is both shameful and frightening.



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The specific focus of this panel is “nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation: a path to resolve peacefully internal disputes.” This connection is not immediately obvious. In a negative way, one could argue that without nuclear disarmament and the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons, the tasks of resolving international disputes becomes more difficult. And it is difficult to see how, without progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, progress on many of the world’s other survival issues will be possible. Equally, unilateral, bi-lateral, and multilateral initiatives in the direction of nuclear disarmament can be seen as positive mechanisms for greater understanding and incentives for the removal of obstacles to the resolution of differences between nations. Thus, although the debate is only just beginning over the meaning of the decision by President Obama yesterday to shelve the missile defense plan for sites in Poland and Czechoslovakia, let us pray that its true potential will be realized: a reduction in threat perception and the lubrication of possibilities for major nuclear weapons reductions between Russia and the United States—and hence an improved global political atmosphere where other key conflict and peace related steps become possible.

But I wish to make a few broader remarks on the relationship between disarmament and peace:

1. In my own experience, particularly in the 1980s, when we had the last great public push for nuclear disarmament, that movement was often called “the peace movement”. And yet “peace” is clearly about so many things beyond getting rid of weapons. Disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular are necessary but not sufficient dimensions of our global quest to reduce violence of all sorts and to create conditions of sustainable peace.

2. Having said this, it seems to me that it is also true that too seldom in disarmament processes is their contribution to the large processes of building peace either acknowledged or kept at the forefront of negotiations. To use the example of our own Geneva-based body, the Conference on Disarmament. The CD is not a universal body but it is one which is nevertheless charged with the negotiation of key disarmament and arms control treaties and conventions for the world community as a whole, The larger contribution of the actual and potential accomplishments of the CD to reducing the threat of the different types of weapons to security and the prospects for peace is too often overshadowed by narrow definitions of national security which are allowed to prevent overall progress so clearly wished by the majority of the member states of the CD but also the world community as a whole.

3. Finally, while we focus appropriately today on nuclear weapons—and the very special demands which seeking to eliminate them presents—let us also keep in mind the full range of disarmament and arms control requirements which confront us if true, sustainable peace is to be achieved. Again, we have much to be thankful for in this regard in that the so-called “lost decade” has not been a truly lost one, and major progress has been made on dealing with the ridding of the world of two weapons systems—anti-personnel landmines and so-called cluster munitions. Here one can clearly see the link between the outlawing of a weapons-system and the actions that



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have followed and an increase in human security. Therefore, let us “demystify” nuclear weapons. They are simply weapons—however big, bad, and ugly--the elimination of which is a requirement for human progress, real security, and true peace to prevail.

In preparing these remarks, I have been reminded of my own long involvement in this quest—and the number of times that hopes have been raised, only to be dashed again. I recall very clearly what, in retrospect, might today to be considered the rather naïve hopes which were raised by the First UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1978. Nuclear weapons were clearly front and center in the concerns of that meeting, but they were there alongside concerns about the full range of ways in which continued massive expenditure on weapons and a failure to tackle sufficiently disarmament in general represented blocks to the breakthrough to peace which so many hoped for.

I want to close with a brief quote from one of the presentations made by one of the NGOs at that meeting. It is important to remember that, although we still struggle today to have civil society’s voice fully heard in the halls of disarmament processes, their participation before the General Assembly in 1978 was first real step. These were among the words spoken by a young academic representing the International Peace Research Association, ring as true today as they did then. His name was Raimo Vayrynen, who is today the head of a prominent peace institute in Finland. Here is what he said:

“It is difficult indeed to imagine how the hungry can be fed, the economy improved, the environment conserved, peace established, and war avoided with the arms race running its present course, and without decisive steps being taken for genuine and effective disarmament.”

**Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Director-General of the United Nations
Office at Geneva**

It is a privilege to welcome you all to the Palais des Nations for our annual commemoration of the International Day of Peace, which this year is devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation. Allow me, first of all, to thank our co-hosts – the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law. Protection and promotion of human rights is a necessary foundation for a peaceful world and is closely connected to the need for disarmament. Together, disarmament and human rights form the core of the concept of human security.

Disarmament and non-proliferation are at the heart of the United Nations’ mission. It is recognized in the Charter as necessary to maintaining international peace and security and to creating an environment favourable to human advancement. In short, it is central to making progress across the three pillars of our work: security, development and human rights.

Over the past 100 days, the United Nations has been raising awareness through a count-down campaign to this International Day, under the slogan “We Must Disarm”, of the need to take forward disarmament and non-proliferation. But, the global



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commemoration is not the conclusion. It is the starting point for strengthened efforts. As the Secretary-General said earlier this month, the world is over-armed and peace is under-funded. Today is our opportunity to make sure that these critical issues are neither under-estimated nor under-exposed.

The stakes are high. Global military expenditure is now close to 1.5 trillion dollars. It has increased by 45% over the past decade. This arms build-up not only undermines stability, but it drains much-needed resources away from development. Strategic disarmament could free up significant funds that could be channelled towards realizing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals – our blueprint for progress for the world's most vulnerable.

Encouraging developments over the past months have provided a window of opportunity. In May of this year, in this very room, the Conference on Disarmament adopted by consensus a Programme of Work for the first time in over a decade. It opened for the possibility of engaging in negotiations and substantive discussions on strategic disarmament, and it was the clearest illustration so far of a new spirit of flexibility and compromise.

It is important that the Conference now build on the positive momentum provided, not only with the adoption of the Programme of Work, but also through a number of initiatives by States and their leaders relevant to the work of the Conference, with a view to early commencement of substantive work during the 2010 session. Despite the adoption of the Programme of Work, procedural disagreements have, unfortunately, prevented the Conference from transforming it into substantive work before the end of its annual session yesterday. I take this important opportunity – on the International Day of Peace – to encourage all Members to allow the Conference to advance when the new session starts.

Next week, the Security Council will convene a historic high-level summit to address nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is only the fifth such meeting in the history of the United Nations, and it is only the first time that a President of the United States will chair a meeting of the Security Council, with participation of other Heads of State and Government.

In the margins of the General Assembly, which opens in New York next week, the United Nations will host a special meeting to promote the efforts toward the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty – the CTBT.

All of this testifies to a promising atmosphere that could enable meaningful advances. Indeed, global awareness of the need for progress on disarmament and non-proliferation is greater than it has been for a long time. We must capitalize on these trends.

Next year, the States Parties will come together for the 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We cannot afford a repeat of the failure of the 2005



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Review Conference; we need to make concrete and substantial progress.
Dear Friends:

It is particularly appropriate to commemorate the International Day at the Palais des Nations this year. Earlier this month, we marked the 80th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of this unique building. Over eight decades, the Palais des Nations has embodied the international community's vision of a world at peace. It is the focal point for many of the international community's disarmament and non-proliferation activities and a symbol of Geneva as the "world's disarmament capital". It is therefore a special pleasure to have with us Mr. Moutinot, representing the State Council, which over the years has also played an important part in cementing this role for Geneva by welcoming the international community.

As we take forward multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation, the Palais des Nations and Geneva will continue to provide a key platform for our collective efforts.

Today, we recommit to a common future of peace. We can only realize this vision through collective action. Multi-stakeholder cooperation remains absolutely indispensable to advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Governments, international organizations and civil society must work together with unity of purpose towards this noble goal.

I thank you all for joining us today as a demonstration of our shared and firm resolve".

Mr. Jose Luis Gomez del Prado, member of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries

My name is Gomez del Prado and I have the honour to moderate this Round Table. Following the official UN commemoration of the International Day of Peace, the NGO's Liaison Office of the United Nations in Geneva, in cooperation with the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law, has also organized this Round Table Discussion on "**Nuclear Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Peace**".

The main aim of the panel is to promote, through public awareness, the aim of the General Assembly which established in 2001 the observance of this International Day in order to develop and consolidate a **culture of peace**. This year, the International Day of Peace coincides with the 20 anniversary of the end of the Cold War which, as indicated by the Secretary-General, was supposed to "provide a peace dividend and free up resources" for the future of our planet such as human development, climate change and a new international economic order. Unfortunately, that unique opportunity was not seized. On the contrary, since the end of the Cold War the number of victims of armed conflicts has dramatically increased. And the **global military expenditure** continues unabated amounting in 2008, to 1.5 trillion US\$, which represents as indicated by the UN Secretary-General to over 200 US\$ for each person alive¹.

¹ UN Press release, of 4 September 2009, "Press Conference on Mexico City DPI/NGO Conference". Also



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In this connection, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law which has developed a draft international instrument for a Universal Declaration of the Human Right to Peace to be adopted by the United Nations. To this end, this ngo is conducting a worldwide campaign. At the end of this process, in 2010, the draft Declaration will be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council. In one of its articles, the Declaration emphasizes the right of individuals and peoples “**To the general and transparent disarmament of all States in a coordinated manner, within a reasonable time and under efficient and comprehensive international supervision**”; as well as “**the allocation of the resources freed by disarmament**” going to the needs of the poorest countries and vulnerable groups.

This year also marks the anniversary of the US atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that killed over 150,000 people instantly. Sixty-four years after those tragic events, the world, as Mr. Ban Ki-Moon has indicated, stands at a precipice facing serious threats stemming, among other things, from the persistence of over 20 000 nuclear weapons and the “contagious doctrine” of nuclear deterrence. It is, thus, necessary to achieve peace and security through a world free of nuclear weapons. The existence of these weapons continues to be a permanent threat to peace. As pointed out by the UN Human Rights Committee the “designing, testing, manufacture, possession and deployment of nuclear weapons are among the greatest threats to the **right to life** which confront humankind today”². Within this context, we have to note the recent call made by the Mayor of Hiroshima in Mexico City during the Sixty-second Annual UN Peace and Development Conference for a world free of nuclear weapons³. We must also underline the commitment made last April by President Obama of the United States of America for a world free of nuclear weapons and welcome his willingness to chair over the summit-level meeting of the Security Council on 24 September 2009 on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation⁴.

Other alarming threats to peace consolidation are the widespread use of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW)⁵ and the privatization of war. The use of illicit small arms and light weapons have destructive effects in the right to life, liberty and security of persons”, particularly **for women**⁶.

SIPRI Yearbook 2009 : armaments, disarmament and international security, Solna, Sweden. It gives: US\$1464 billion, an increase of 4 per cent in real terms compared to 2007, and of 45 per cent since 1999.

² General Comment No. 14 of the Human Rights Committee: Nuclear weapons and the right to life (Art. 6), 9 November of 1984, par. 4

³ Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba, whose city was destroyed by a nuclear bomb in 1945, called for the end to nuclear weapons by 2020 at the sixty-second annual peace and development conference organized by the United Nations in Mexico.

⁴ UN Press release of 4 September 2009 “Press Conference on Mexico City DPI/NGO Conference”.

⁵ General Assembly, First Committee, *General and complete disarmament: consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures*, A/RES/51/45(N), 1996



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As regards the privatization of war, globalization has given private actors the power to engage in transnational military and security operations that were until recently the monopoly of the state. The reliance on private contractors by defence and other stakeholder agencies has continued to increase as the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have progressed. Private contractors are now literally in the centre of the battlefield in unprecedented numbers⁷. In the current armed conflicts in those two countries the ratio for every uniformed member of the United States armed forces is of one private contractor⁸. Something never witnessed before. Private military and security companies are also on trial for torturing and killings in Iraq and Afghanistan, accused of depravity in Kabul, or implicated in political instability in Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere. That implies that sovereign States may be losing the monopoly of the legitimate use of force.

**Ms. Susy Snyder, Secretary General of the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom**

There are a great many challenges and opportunities facing the review conference of the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) next year. I will outline some of the challenges but focus on our collective opportunities. The NPT is often heralded as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non proliferation regime. It is the only place where the recognized nuclear weapons states- China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States have agreed to eliminate their nuclear weapons.

Article VI of the NPT states that “Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”. The treaty is nearly universal- the only countries that have not both signed and ratified it are: India, Israel, and Pakistan. Several years ago and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which is still somewhat disputed.

Those outside the treaty are one of the great challenges; another challenge is the modernisation of nuclear weapons in the recognized nuclear weapons states. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, China is believed to be increasing its nuclear arsenal. In a speech in 2008, President Sarkozy recommitted France to a doctrine of nuclear deterrence. The UK parliament decided in 2007 to begin development of new ballistic missile submarine to begin deployment by 2024. Russia has announced that they are planning on modernizing their missiles and submarines, and will be upgrading conventional and nuclear forces starting in 2011. The US is engaged in Complex Transformation and Stockpile Life Extension

⁶ Conclusions of the report issued by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) on the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, 2008 (<http://www.iansa.org>): women are paying an increasingly heavy price for the worldwide unregulated multi-billion dollar trade in small arms

⁷ Report to the United States Congress by the bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan

⁸ United States Congressional Budget Office. “The world's only superpower cannot fight its war nor protect its civilian officials, diplomats and embassies without support from private contractors”.



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programme- renovating and modernizing US nuclear weapons complex including providing new military capabilities.

Since the 5 April speech in Prague by US President Obama, a world without nuclear weapons has been back on the popular agenda. That speech put disarmament first- where most similar statements focus on non proliferation. Putting disarmament first demonstrates a tremendous, and inspiring shift in US policy statements.

In the lead up to the failed 2005 NPT Review conference, the final preparatory committee meeting was unable to agree either on recommendations towards the conference nor on an agenda. The first three weeks of the four week review in 2005 were mired in procedural wrangling to attain an agenda, that was held together “by an asterisk and a footnote”^[1]. The good news for 2010 is that an agenda has already been agreed. Not only that, but this agenda includes reference to the key sticking points that prevented the 05 Review conference from going forward- the outcomes of the 2000 review conference (including the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament) and the outcomes, including the resolution on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East, of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

This means that there is a chance for progress on the 13 Practical steps as agreed in 2000, including issues such as Verification, Reporting, and the Reduction of operational status of nuclear weapons.

In the General Assembly, there has been great progress on the issue of operational status- sometimes referred to as nuclear weapons on “hair trigger alert”. In fact, in 2008, resolution GA/63/41, sponsored by Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland received 141 in favour to 3 against, with 34 abstentions, in the General Assembly. Only France, United Kingdom, United States voted against this. That resolution specifically “Calls for further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status”.

There is also an opportunity to advance the agenda of a nuclear weapons free world given by the continued bilateral negotiations between the US and Russia on a treaty to follow on the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) set to expire this year. These negotiations will likely be enhanced by the decision by President Obama to cancel the deeply flawed antimissile systems in Eastern Europe, although there will continue to be a “phased, adaptive approach for missile defence in Europe”, likely to use an Aegis-centred NATO option.

From the southern hemisphere another opportunity and hope arises. The report of the Australian Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, just released, directs Australia to support and work towards a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Furthermore, there is continued progress, albeit slow progress, on a Nuclear Weapons Convention- or a treaty that actually bans the bomb. In the 2009 NPT Prepcom, Working Paper 30,^[2] called for the immediate commencement of a negotiation



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process “towards a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention.” The UN Secretary General, in his five point plan for nuclear disarmament presented in October 2008 also references a nuclear weapons convention. And the resolution in the General Assembly on this has gained more support each year.

In 2008, Brazil said they supported the GA resolution because an “international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, “with a specified framework of time”. The • 2008 Voting results: 121 in favour to 50 against, with 10 abstentions. The • 2007 Voting results: 120 in favour and 52 against, still 10 abstentions, and in 2006 119 states voted in favour of this resolution.

Last but not least, on 24 September there will be an unprecedented summit in the UN Security Council. This Summit, only the fifth time the UNSC has met at the Summit level, will for the first time, be chaired by the US President.

The draft resolution we’ve seen for this summit includes the recognition of the importance of negative security assurances and nuclear weapon free zone treaties and its commitment to supporting the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It also calls for the Additional Protocol to be a condition of supply of nuclear materials. Although this was somewhat contested by Syria, in a 2009 NPT Preparatory committee working paper (WP.9) when they said that the nuclear weapon states stop placing “restrictions and obstacles” to the benefit of peaceful uses of nuclear technology by the non-nuclear weapon states.

Overall, there are indeed significant challenges facing in the build up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, but there are also opportunities to give us hope. We must continue our advocacy and our efforts to ensure that this conference is a success, and that it takes us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons.
